

# Success **STORIES**

## Army HSMS Program

### FortBliss, Texas HazMart

#### **Better Management, New Business Practices Save Money and Reduce Waste**

Fort Bliss didn't rush into its decision to manage hazardous materials through a centralized "HazMart," but the move has quickly paid environmental and operational dividends for the installation.

Fort Bliss saw potential benefits in the capabilities of Hazardous Substance Management System (HSMS) software and better business practices. Staff members researched HazMart operations at neighboring Holloman Air Force Base and White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, and participated in a HSMS software test at Fort Carson, Colorado. They decided that better hazardous-materials management practices would help the installation avoid regulatory violations, improve personnel safety and trim its hazardous-waste disposal costs.

With technical and financial assistance from Army Training and Doctrine Command, the U.S. Army Environmental Center and its own Directorate of Environment, Fort Bliss opened its HazMart in February 1998. It didn't take long for the operation to yield tangible benefits.

#### **More Savings, Less Waste**

- ▲ In the HazMart's first year, Fort Bliss avoided \$230,000 in hazardous-waste disposal costs by extending the shelf life of \$34,000 worth of material. The post estimates that shelf-life extensions, storage improvements, material reuse and fewer purchases will save \$2 million a year.
- ▲ Units or organizations return unused hazardous materials for reissue to other organizations. Through this "free issue" program the HazMart has reissued about \$26,000 worth of material to various organizations, saving \$14,000 in procurement costs. This program has also eliminated \$208,000 in disposal costs.
- ▲ More than \$14,500 worth of material turned in to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) has been resold. Instead of allowing DRMO to dispose of \$89,000 worth of expendable lithium batteries, Fort Bliss made them



## THE **Fort Bliss HazMart**



FOR **more  
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available – free of charge – through the National Inventory Control Point. Another installation claimed them and spared Fort Bliss the expense of disposing of the batteries as hazardous waste.

- ▲ The HazMart tracks and recovers hazardous-material containers, cutting down on indiscriminate landfill disposal and related violation notices. This program will help Fort Bliss save about \$17,000 a year.

## SettingUp

The Fort Bliss HazMart manages an Authorized Stockage List (ASL) of 110 products. It uses the Standard Army Retail Supply System (SARSS) to manage its inventory and perform other warehousing, supply and stock-control functions.

The procedures for issuing stock depend on the customer. At Fort Bliss, customers are Directorate of Public Works personnel, who must report to the HazMart for all requests of hazardous materials. HazMart personnel first verify free-issue stock to determine if the order can be filled by that route. If not, they issue the material from Engineer Stock on hand. HazMart personnel report items not in stock to the purchasing section. If the HazMart has the item, it issues it to the customer and charges the customer's work-order or service-order account. If the item on hand is a free-issue item, the HazMart issues it at no charge. If the item is not in stock but on the ASL, the HazMart requests it through the Integrated Facilities System (IFS). The customer can also buy the item locally with a credit card and bring it to the HazMart for bar coding and tracking in HSMS.

SARSS also allows the HazMart to check and approve other hazardous-material requests that do not come through its doors. For ease of tracking, the HazMart is listed as the "ship to" address on all hazardous-material requisitions through the IFS.

To close the loop and track materials from "cradle to grave," the Fort Bliss HazMart requires customers to return empty containers and to record any spills. HSMS also tracks hazardous waste turned in to DRMO for disposal.

The HazMart operation serves more than 75 percent of Fort Bliss' hazardous-material users, and it plans to add one customer each month. The induction process involves working with the customer to develop an Authorized Usage List (AUL), which identifies an item's stock number, manufacturer, part number and other information.

## FutureSavings

The HazMart processes about \$80,000 worth of material a month. That amount should increase as more customers join, but will level out and drop as the installation purchases less material.

Annual Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) reporting costs are expected to fall each year as the HazMart uses HSMS to track more data. Next year, the Fort Bliss HazMart will reach its full operational capability, with all customers being tracked by HSMS. The installation will no longer have to pay a contractor to produce EPCRA reports after the HazMart operates under full operational capability for one year.

The installation's Hazardous Material Control Group meets periodically to discuss hazardous-material management issues. It will become standard practice at Fort Bliss to use hazardous materials that incur the lowest practical life-cycle cost and present the lowest risk to people and the environment while accomplishing the mission.